

Cost Estimates for the Brightwater Systems

Brightwater: an investment in our future

As our population grows, we need a new wastewater treatment plant called Brightwater to protect our health, environment, and economic growth. After four years of careful analysis and public review, King County Executive Ron Sims selected a 114-acre site next to Route 9 near Woodinville for the new Brightwater Treatment Plant. The Brightwater facilities will include the new treatment plant, its associated conveyance facilities, and an outfall to Puget Sound. Brightwater will be built and operating by 2010.

Cost estimates reviewed regularly

As the design process moves forward, cost estimates will be further refined at key milestones. Many people have expressed concerns about the cost of Brightwater and its impact on rate and capacity charges. We are developing a financing and cost containment plan for Brightwater that will be aimed at mitigating rate and capacity charge impacts.

When the Regional Wastewater Services Plan was approved, the cost estimates of Brightwater were based upon the Point Wells site and a site in the Swamp Creek basin. These sites were taken off the list in 2001 by decision makers for a variety of reasons, despite lower costs.

The current cost estimates are based on the alternatives in the final environmental impact statement and reflect all the changes made to the alternatives in response to comments on the draft environmental impact statement. The cost estimates for these alternatives are similar to those from 2001 and 2002, even with two additional years of inflation. Some changes to the alternatives resulted in lower costs, while other changes increased costs resulting in a net reduction of the overall impacts on the project.

Mitigation included in cost estimates

Totals on the following page include approximately \$88 million system-wide to mitigate the impacts of constructing and operating the facilities. Mitigation might include a range of items from transportation improvements and sound walls during construction to wetlands and wildlife habitat to open space and trails. A community/education center has also been proposed for mitigation. Odor control facilities are included in the project budget, but not the mitigation budget.

Cost Comparison of the Final EIS Alternatives

The following table shows the preliminary cost estimates for the systems analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS. The capital cost estimates include the cost of purchasing land, obtaining permits, mitigation, and the design and construction of the plant, conveyance system, and marine outfall. Operations and maintenance costs include labor, energy, materials and equipment repair for the Brightwater facilities for 50 years.

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Selected system

Site and Conveyance Configuration	Capital Costs Billions of 2003 \$	Operations Costs (1) Millions of 2003 \$
Route 9, 195 th Conveyance Route with Influent Pump Station at North Creek Portal	\$1.35	Annual \$14.1 50 year \$363 (present worth)

Other systems analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS

Site and Conveyance Configuration	Capital Costs Billions of 2003 \$	Operations Costs (1) Millions of 2003 \$
Route 9, 195 th Conveyance Route with Influent Pump Station on Route 9 Site	\$1.40	Annual \$14.1 50 year \$363 (present worth)
Route 9, 228 th Conveyance Route with Influent Pump Station on Route 9 Site	\$1.42	Annual \$14.1 50 year \$363 (present worth)
Route 9, 228 th Conveyance Route with Influent Pump Station at North Creek Portal	\$1.41	Annual \$14.1 50 year \$363 (present worth)
Unocal	\$1.27	Annual \$14.7
Unocal w/ structural lid	\$1.51	50 year \$378 (present worth)

1. Present worth costs of labor, equipment, chemicals and energy using a discount rate of three percent.

How will it affect monthly wastewater rates?

Over the long term, the new facilities will have a modest effect on rates for existing customers because new customers will pay a capacity charge (fees for new connections to the system) in addition to their monthly sewer rate that will help finance the facilities needed to accommodate growth in our region. This will help keep rates stable for existing customers.

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This information is available in alternative formats upon request
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